

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 01837 101759Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 101707Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3352

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1837

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJ: CENTURION TANKS

REF: THE HAGUE 1749 AND 1356

1. DIRGEN POLAFFS VAN LYNDEN ASKED TO SEE ME APRIL 10 TO RECEIVE GON'S RESPONSE TO MY APRIL 5 APPROACH TO FONMIN VAN DER STOEL RE CENTURION TANKS.

2. VAN LYNDEN OPENED BY STATING THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN TREATED AS MATTER OF GREATEST SENSITIVITY WITHIN GON TO THE EXTENT THAT ONLY HANDFUL OF SENIOR OFFICIALS KNEW OF IT AND NO PAPER HAD BEEN WRITTEN ON IT. HE THEN SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY VAN DER STOEL, WHO HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MOD VREDELING, TO INFORM ME THAT "WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT THESE TANKS, WHICH ARE HERE FOR GOOD REASON."

3. I RECALLED THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAD INITIALLY RAISED THIS MATTER WITH MOD VREDELING IN TERMS OF 65 TO 80 TANKS AND THAT ON APRIL 5 I HAD INFORMED VAN DER STOEL THAT IF GON WAS AMENABLE TO DECLARING EXCESS UP TO AS MANY AS 200 CENTURIONS, US WAS PREPARED TO REPOSSESS AND SHIP TO ISRAEL. I SAID THIS WOULD APPLY IF GON SHOULD ONLY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO DECLARE A LESSER NUMBER EXCESS. VAN LYNDEN RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT GON NEEDED ALL OF THE CENTURIONS IT POSSESSED.

4. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO OTHER MATTERS.

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PAGE 02 THE HA 01837 101759Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
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Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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